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Coffee House And Open Mic In Dublin This Saturday



Liza Constable (L) and Val Blachly(R) will perform a blend of vintage jazz.

On the third Saturday of each month, there is a combined Coffee House and Open Mic at the Dub-Hub/Dublin Community Center at 1123 Main Street from 6 to 9 p.m. Coffee and snacks are available. Attendees are welcome to BYOB and dinner and/or snacks. A featured performance takes place for about 60 minutes, with open mic slots available.

The feature will be the Hot Skillet Club, known for a blend of jazz and western string music. Val Blachly and Liza Constable will perform a blend of vintage jazz. Their music includes swing, western swing, and classic songs from the Great American Songbook.

Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening and hope to find an available spot on the list. Suggested donation starts at \$5, and a hat will be passed for the featured performers.

For more details, see <https://www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar>.

Unity Heat Pumps

Not Just Mini Split Experts, Now Certified In Weatherization Assessments



James Mayer now offers a weatherization service through energy audits, making Unity Heat Pumps a whole building energy efficiency company.

Marlborough Celebrates 250th Birthday With Full Day Of Events

The town of Marlborough will mark its 250th anniversary on Saturday, June 27th, with a full day of community events celebrating the town's history, arts, and community spirit.

The day kicks off at 9 a.m. with the Birthday Bash Mad Dash 5K Road Race, a USATF-certified course. Registration opens at 8 a.m. at the gazebo on Frost Hill Road. All participants receive a commemorative t-shirt. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three men's and women's finishers and top finishers in age groups will receive \$25 local gift certificates. Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Marlborough/MarlboroughMadDash5KRoadRace>.

Also from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., a townwide yard sale will offer space on the grounds of the Marlborough School for residents and businesses to sell wares. Residents will also hold sales on their own property. Marlborough Arts Day runs concurrently from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with local artists opening their studios

for a behind-the-scenes look at painting, ceramics, photography, glass blowing, filmmaking, music, architecture, and culinary arts.

At 10 a.m., the Frost Free Library at 28 Jaffrey Road will host a Roger's Rangers Live Encampment through 4 p.m. Interpreters will bring to life an 18th-century military camp as it would have appeared during the Revolutionary War. For more details, visit jaffreypubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/16639810.

The Marlborough School Alumni Reunion will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community House at 160 Main Street, open to all who ever attended or taught in Marlborough's elementary or high school. Send inquiries to lrob4860@gmail.com.

The Marlborough Fire Department will host an Open House from noon to 3 p.m. at 149 Main Street, where visitors can meet department members, view equipment, and learn fire safety tips. Children are welcome to climb aboard the trucks.

Lifetime Security Skills Course Saturday, June 27th



Terry Choate, Jr. – founder of The Personal Defense Project – will lead a one day Lifetime Security Skills course for families (kids ages 13 and up) and adults.

Terry Choate, Jr. of The Personal Defense Project will lead a one day Lifetime Security Skills course for families and adults on Saturday, June 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This course is appropriate for 13 years and older.

This course offers a lifetime of security skills that diverges from the false belief that other people will keep us secure to learning how we can achieve real skills ourselves.

“Today's threats are real, dangerous, constantly developing, and they are everywhere,” says Choate.

The course covers practical personal defense skills, situational awareness, recognizing signs of violence and de-escalation, today's real threats, surviving an active shooter incident, practical defensive techniques for adults and children, prevention and survival when prevention fails, and more.

For more details or to secure a spot in this upcoming class, call 603-759-7803, email terry@personaldefenseproject.com, or visit www.personaldefenseproject.com.



James Mayer of Unity Heat Pumps is seen at a local Habitat for Humanity project where his team installed mini splits.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Heat pumps are designed to work efficiently in cold climates, as you find in New England, while also doubling as a cooling system in the summer. They offer two-in-one functionality:

replacing both a central air conditioner and a separate heating system, saving space and consolidating maintenance.

“Heat pumps are air conditioners; air conditioners are heat pumps!” says Unity Heat Pumps owner James Mayer.

These systems move heat rather than create it, so they are extremely energy-efficient. They lower utility bills, enhance safety and comfort, and produce the lowest carbon emissions of any standard heating source.

Unity Heat Pumps offers a full range of heating and cooling solutions through clean, efficient heat pump technology. They install ductless (mini splits/ACs), ducted (central), and air-to-water (boiler replacement and hot water) heat pumps. Take note: Mayer is offering 5 percent off installations if a site visit is booked within a week of this article being published.

“Heat pumps have zero emissions, meaning they produce no air pollution inside or outside the home or building,” Mayer continues. “We install, clean, and service efficient, eco-friendly heat pump (mini-split) heating and cooling systems for homes and businesses.”

Most recently, Mayer added weatherization assessments to their list of services offered at Unity Heat Pumps.

UNITY, page 4

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PET OF THE WEEK

from THE MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

Lola



Lola is a five-year-old German Shepherd who's been through a lot and is starting to find her footing with the right support. She came to MHS with significant hair loss and skin inflammation, and she's on the mend now – she loves to show off her new, fuzzy, puppy coat!

Lola is a sensitive, thoughtful dog who didn't have many life experiences early on, so new things can feel overwhelming. With training and patience she's learning calmer ways to handle the world around her – like choosing to move away from something scary instead of reacting. She'll benefit from a home that understands she'll need ongoing behavioral support.

Once she feels safe, Lola's playful and bright personality shines through. She loves to play fetch and already knows cues like sit and shake. Because she can be reactive and hasn't had much positive experience with other animals, Lola may best suited as the only pet in the home. The folks at MHS believe that she could be a good fit for homes with children, with proper introductions. With the right family, she has so much potential to keep growing into a loyal, fun, and deeply bonded companion.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road, outside of Keene on Route 10 South. It's open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at www.monadnockhumaneociety.org.



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Gilsum Rock Swap Dinner Saturday, June 27th

The annual one-of-a-kind Rock Swap Dinner will be held at the Gilsum Church at 13 Main Street on Saturday, June 27th with two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. There is a limited number of spaces available.

The all-you-can-eat, family-style meal includes ham, homemade baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, bread, lemonade, and coffee. As always, the finale of the meal is a large selection of pies.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and children (ages eight and under) are \$7. Tickets can be purchased on the Rock Swap field on the 27th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or at the Gilsum Church. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door. For more details or to secure tickets ahead of the event, call Barb at 603-352-0455 and leave a message (no later than Thursday, June 25th).

Red Sox Foundation's Free Baseball Clinic For Children Friday, June 26th In Keene

On Friday, June 26th the Red Sox Foundation, along with the Keene SwampBats, will hold a Free Baseball Clinic at Alumni Field on Arch Street

in Keene from 10 a.m. to noon. This clinic is open to children ages five to 12. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.

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The Community Kitchen pop-up pantry
 The Community Kitchen will host its annual Pop-up Pantry events this summer at select locations. Eligible households are invited to attend and receive a variety of fresh and shelf-stable food items at no cost. Events will be held rain or shine, and on-site enrollment will be available. If you have any questions, please call (603) 352-3200.
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Picadilly Farm Hosts Free Events This Saturday

Picadilly Farm in Winchester will host two free events on Saturday, June 20th. Both events take place rain or shine.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Pop-Up Farm Shop will be open and then at 1 p.m., Welcome Summer, the annual concert with the Family Folk Chorale will start. The events are free and open to all and includes local ice cream.

Attendees are encouraged to bring the family, a picnic, and something to sit on at the outdoor concert. While donations are optional, Jenny and Bruce Wooster, owners of Picadilly Farm and hosts of events, would accept them thankfully.

Picadilly Farm has 71 acres which have been agricultural lands for many generations. Of these, 40 acres are prime agricultural soils, and each year the Woosters grow certified organic produce on 15 of them. The fruits of their labors can be found at the Monadnock and Brattleboro Co-ops and on the menus of local restaurants.



Bruce and Jenny Wooster, owners of Picadilly Farm.

The farm is located at 264 Parrish Road in Winchester. For more details, visit the website at www.picadillyfarm.com or find Picadilly Farm on Facebook and Instagram.

Marlborough Alumni Association Reunion

The Marlborough Alumni Association Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 27th at the Marlborough Community House at 160 Main Street in Marlborough.

Folks should arrive at 11 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch at noon. Bring an appetizer, salad, hot or cold dish, or dessert to share. There will be a meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. and group photos from 2 to 3 p.m.

Attendance in recent years has been under 50 people, so spread the word to classmates and former teachers. Everyone who attended or taught at Marlborough Schools is welcome. Marlborough graduates of Keene High School from all class years are also

welcome. This is a fun annual event (always held on the last Saturday in June), and the Alumni Association would love to see more alumni attend.

The fee for this event is \$3 per person. Scholarship donations are also appreciated.

These funds help build the association treasury so they can award an annual scholarship to a Marlborough graduating senior who is continuing their education. Keene High School has the scholarship application instructions. The Alumni Association Board of Directors reviews the applications and selects the recipient.

Dues and donations may be paid at the door.

Unity Heat Pumps – Not Just Mini Split Experts

UNITY, Continued from page 1

These energy audits help reduce utility costs, lower carbon footprints, and improve indoor air quality. From there, this crew can provide air sealing and insulation – focusing on using non-toxic weatherization materials.

“We are now certified in weatherization – transitioning us from a heat pump company to a whole building energy efficiency company,” Mayer says. “This means we can now perform energy audits to see how a building performs, and implement air sealing and eco-friendly insulation solutions, and then install super-efficient and healthy heat pump systems to heat, cool, and provide hot water to the building.”

This locally owned and operated business opened in 2023 with a focus on establishing core values with

a motto of Unity H.E.L.P.S. – Heart-centered, Excellence, Loving acceptance, Prosperity for all, service. “We add as much value as possible for the customer, and focus on excellent work with a kind attitude,” Mayer adds.

“Such a great experience,” says customer Jerry Showman. “Unity Heat Pumps was exactly what I was looking for. James and his team were so kind, caring, and knowledgeable from start to finish on a really big job. Unity spec’d out my heat pumps properly (didn’t over-size) and were the most competitive price around.”

Another customer, Patrick Morabito, says: “The job was done on time and super efficiently. I was extremely satisfied and would recommend Unity Heat Pumps to anyone in need of a heat pump.”

Unity Heat Pumps has launched the Heat Pumps for All! program – a donation-based special fund that provides financial assistance for installations for low-income and situation-based customers, so there is increase access to all.

This heat pump business offers maximum rebates, up to 12-year warranties including labor, and low or no interest financing. Unity Heat Pumps are certified through the Better Business Bureau and were even awarded second place for the BBB Torch Award for “Ethics.”

“James at Unity Heat Pumps did a fabulous job installing my heat pump and my high-efficiency water heater. When there was a small problem a few weeks later, he came right away and addressed the problem quickly,” says customer Jared Rolston.

“Heat pumps will typically lower heating costs by 25 percent,” Mayer says. “Weatherization can also lower costs by up to 30 percent, and combined with heat pumps may lower heating costs by 50 percent!”

He sums it up by saying that by installing heat pumps “people will breathe easier because they have a healthier home, lower utility bills, and will be more comfortable.”

Plans are in the works for a new commercial warehouse and showroom in downtown Keene. This space will eventually offer workshops and an interactive space to see the heat pumps in action. Stay tuned.

For more details, call 802-289-5222 or visit www.unityheatpumps.com.

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MARCO POLO GARDEN
MYSTERY PHOTO

The first person to answer the question correctly at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Marco Polo Garden on Main Street in Keene. Call The Monadnock Shopper News, West Street in Keene, at 603-352-5296. You may win only one contest every three months. Only one call per person per week. No walk-ins, please. (Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



In what Cheshire County town was this large forest products company located?

The winner of last week's Mystery Photo Contest was Sue O'Neil of Keene. The Keene business shown in the mid-20th century photo was Scenic Theatre.

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Why Clean Energy? The Answers Might Surprise You

Future historians will say many things about the age we're living through on planet Earth, but one of the top headlines – arguably the most important story of them all – is the ongoing global energy transition to clean energy. Many are making this transition because of climate concerns, but as it turns out, there are at least three other powerful reasons to consider – and they might surprise you.

Here in New England, we know a few things about energy revolutions. The millponds we kayak and swim in remind us of the eighteenth-century water power revolution; the coal silos off of Emerald Street in Keene remind us of the nineteenth-century coal revolution; and the eye-popping gas prices these days remind us of the twentieth-century revolution toward oil and natural gas. And now, yet another energy revolution

is upon us: the shift to renewable, cleaner energy sources such as solar and wind.

What's driving the change? Many understand that burning fossil fuels is wrapping the earth in a heat-trapping blanket of pollution, and an overheated planet means more extreme weather, more vulnerability, more ecosystem damage, more species extinctions, and more political and social unrest.

But, set all that aside for a moment and consider the argument from human health. At the height of the COVID pandemic, about one in 10 deaths on earth were attributable to COVID, and in order to combat it, we essentially closed down much of the global economy and transformed our lives. But the pollution created by burning of fossil fuels contains tiny particles we breathe into our lungs, creating respiratory, pulmonary, and other diseases. A recent Harvard University study found that a staggering one in five deaths today can be attributed to our use of fossil fuels.

being left behind. The cheapest way to produce a kilowatt of electricity today is to produce it through solar or wind – and China is way ahead of us on both fronts. The past is prologue: whoever leads an energy revolution becomes prosperous. For economic reasons alone, we must do all we can to advance the clean energy transition.

But, set aside climate and environmental concerns. Set aside human health. Set aside economics. There's still at least one more compelling case. Even a complete climate skeptic who doesn't care about health or prosperity should still be an enthusiastic supporter of the transition to clean energy. Why?

The argument from national security. Sunshine and wind don't get stuck in the Strait of Hormuz. And as we are seeing in the tragic, illegal wars in both Ukraine and Iran, the present and future of warfare is electronic. Those drones aren't being powered by internal combustion engines; they're being powered by batteries, as are their remote controllers, along with all the other battery-powered devices our armed forces rely on.


And here's the thing: no country will be secure if an adversary is producing their batteries. We need a

robust, homegrown battery industry in the US, and the only way to make such an industry viable is to have it produce commercial products as well, such as batteries for electric vehicles or home use (ideally charged up by solar panels!).

So, let's get after it: for the sake of our climate, for the sake of our health, for the sake of our economy, and for the sake of our national security. Think of the broad political coalition this kind of thinking could rally and mobilize. The time has come. Clean energy now!

A writer and filmmaker in Keene, New Hampshire, Matthew Myer Boulton is co-chair of the board of the Monadnock Sustainability Hub.

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In other words, we are living with an ongoing health catastrophe on the scale of COVID-19. Imagine what we would do today if a new pathogen emerged that caused death at that kind of scale! For health reasons alone, we must do all we can to advance the clean energy transition as boldly and swiftly as possible.

But wait, there's more. A third argument focuses on economics. A primary reason why we are prosperous in this country is precisely because of those millponds and coal silos and gas stations: our ancestors were at the cutting edge of what were then new-fangled forms of energy, and whoever leads on energy and technology reaps economic benefits.

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Loneliness

The Mental Health Minute
with Adele Michaelides



Lonely: Two syllables with a gut punch. "Lonely." For millennia, humans have been trying to figure out how to express what it means to be lonely, to capture lonesomeness. We paint depictions, create dances, sculptures, poems, and, oh, how we sing about it. But we still seem to have trouble speaking about it. Seventy-five years ago, country great Hank Williams released *I'm So Lonesome I could Cry*, his melancholic voice still slicing through time and space.

Hollywood's greatest beast, King Kong, was a lonely guy. The world's favorite monster, Frankenstein's monster, was also a lonely guy, just trying to be pals with the hermit.

We continue to watch ourselves, digging for meaning, hoping to solve the two-syllable dilemma. "I want to connect," we say, then we don't. Or we can't. Or we hide. Humans need to talk about loneliness. Especially when we feel unseen, unheard, unworthy. It has been widely studied and documented that loneliness has profound effects on both our physical and mental health. It hurts, and it's real. Let's talk about it.

Adele Michaelides is a licensed clinician and owner of Finding Sky Counseling. For more information about her services, or to schedule an appointment, she can be reached at 603-354-3604. Visit her online at www.findingskycounselingcenter.com.

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The Evolution Of Fatherhood

Every June, store shelves are stocked with greeting cards, neckties, coffee mugs, and gadgets marketed as the perfect gift for Dad in honor of Father's Day. This Sunday, families will gather for barbecues, sons and daughters will make phone calls across long distances, and photographs and tributes to fathers and father figures will be over social media. Beyond these celebrations, Father's Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the impact that fathers and father figures have on our lives.

Often, fatherhood is experienced through countless small acts performed day after day rather than grand gestures. The early morning drive to practice, the late-night help with homework, the steady presence during difficult times, and the encouragement that

helps children believe in themselves define fatherhood. Many fathers express love not through words but through actions – showing up, providing support, and creating stability.

Fatherhood has evolved significantly over the past several decades. Today's fathers are more involved in their children's daily lives than previous generations. They change diapers, attend parent-teacher conferences, prepare meals, and share household responsibilities. The image of the father as solely a provider has expanded to include a wider variety of roles.

Research has consistently shown that positive father involvement contributes to the emotional well-being, academic achievement, and self-confidence of their children. This research

has helped to shift the role that fathers play in the lives of their children. Children benefit from having a variety of caring adults who invest time, attention, and guidance in their lives. Fathers, whether biological, adoptive, stepfathers, or father figures, can provide unique perspectives and valuable lessons that help shape a child's character.

Additionally, Father's Day reminds us that families come in many forms. The day can be an opportunity to honor grandfathers, uncles, coaches, teachers, or mentors who play a fatherly role. Not everyone has a traditional father-child relationship. Some people may find inspiration and support from individuals with no biological connection, but rather men in their lives who have chosen to guide and care for them.

Father's Day can be complex. For people who have lost their fathers, it may bring memories tinged with grief. Some people may have strained or absent relationships with fathers that make the day difficult. These experiences are equally valid and remind us that fatherhood, like all human relationships, is imperfect and deeply personal. Recognizing this complexity allows the holiday to be more inclusive and meaningful for everyone.

One of the most enduring qualities associated with fatherhood is resilience. Many fathers have needed to navigate pressures of balancing work responsibilities, financial concerns, and family obligations. While society has traditionally encouraged men to project strength and self-reliance, many fathers today are embracing a more complete model of masculinity that includes qualities of vulnerability, empathy, and emotional openness. This change benefits not only fathers themselves but also the children who learn from their example.

Perhaps the quality that makes fathers so influ-

ential is not perfection but consistency. Children won't remember every gift they received or every lesson they were taught. They will remember who showed up to see them hit that home run, to cheer their performance in the school play, or who listened when they needed to talk. Presence matters more than perfection.

Monadnock Family
with Sheri Lapointe



As Father's Day is celebrated, it is worth reflecting on the fathers and father figures who have made a difference in our lives. Although their contributions may not always receive public recognition and their sacrifices may sometimes go unnoticed, their influence can be seen in the confidence they inspire, the values they pass on, and the lives they help shape.

The third Sunday in June can't capture the significance of fatherhood, but it provides a valuable reminder to express gratitude for the men who have guided, supported, and cared for us. Whether through a heartfelt conversation, a handwritten note, a shared meal, or simply spending time together, Father's Day offers an opportunity to acknowledge the quiet strength and enduring love that fathers bring to families every day.

Happy Father's Day!

Sheri Lapointe works as a behavioral health clinician for the Granite State Children's Alliance. Send comments to her at The Monadnock Shopper News, P.O. Box 487, Keene, NH 03431.

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Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	117.33	4.17	Deluxe (NEBS)	23.79	0.63
PC Connection	72.86	0.17	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	130.48	0.64
Bank Of America (Fleet)	56.02	2.19	Timken (MPB Corp.)	137.06	5.23
Corning Inc.	179.20	1.62	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	231.88	9.44
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	227.12	0.57	Dover Corp. (Markem)	217.43	2.67

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Stock Market Near Record Highs: Is Optimism Overpriced?

Equity markets have continued their advance in recent weeks, with the S&P 500 near a record high following a rare nine-week winning streak on strong AI-driven earnings and prospects for an Iran agreement. While the macro backdrop remains mostly constructive, valuations are elevated by most traditional metrics, and oil remains near \$100 with the Strait of Hormuz still closed. Is the stock market pricing in too much good news?

To answer this question, we suggest not putting much emphasis on valuation. Valuation metrics such as the price-to-earnings ratio (P/E) are helpful in assessing long-term return potential and downside risk, but they are historically poor market timing tools. The S&P 500's P/E near 21 can be justified by solid earnings growth and a resilient US economy, although further expansion will require continued cooperation from key drivers such as inflation (oil prices) and interest rates. Unless these macro inputs improve, returns in the second half of the year are

likely to be modest, potentially with some bumps along the way.

Economy and You

with Josh Houle



Against this backdrop, the role of AI remains central. Technology companies, particularly the mega cap hyperscalers, have continued to deliver compelling earnings growth, even as skepticism around the magnitude of investment and timing of eventual returns persists. Results have continued to point to accelerating investment and demand for computing resources. Some big moves in semiconductor and IT hardware companies over the past week suggest the market has not quite caught up to the magnitude of these investments – expected to exceed \$750 billion this year and up about 50 percent since 2026 began.

While valuations appear elevated at the index level and speculation in certain market segments may have gone too far, parts of the technology sector may actually be undervalued relative to their growth potential. Skepticism about the productivity gains AI will bring remains widespread, leaving room for potential upside surprises. At the same time, heavy AI-related capital expenditures have depressed free cash flow, which introduces risk if anticipated productivity gains fail to materialize.

Looking ahead, the market narrative will continue to hinge on the intersection of valuations and AI-driven earnings growth. Elevated multiples and sticky inflation suggest more limited upside from higher valuations, placing greater importance on earnings to come through. AI remains a powerful tailwind for both economic activity and corporate profits, supporting the case for staying invested. The promise of what AI can bring is exciting, but the optimism may be getting ahead of what the technology can deliver. As a result, maintaining discipline around diversification and risk management takes on greater importance.

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Joshua I. Houle, CFP is Founder and Wealth Manager of Houle Wealth Management at 143 West Street in Keene. He can be reached at 603-352-0222/ josh.houle@lpl.com.

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A Healing For Peace?

Years ago, when I lived in Latin America, I had an idea for a book that never happened. I wanted to interview peacemakers in Latin America, bring their ideas about peace out in English for reflection and inspiration. I was able to interview amazing peacemakers in Chile, Nicaragua, Argentina, and one woman – Isabel Letelier – who was living in Washington DC. Her husband Orlando Letelier had been assassinated near Dupont Circle, as he walked out of their apartment one morning.



What surprised me was how each person I asked had a different vision of peace. For one, it was legalistic codes for human rights. For another, a call from God. And for yet another, a kind of concert of different parties coming together in harmony.

Here in this region, we are no different. Some folks I know meditate on peace and good will for all sentient beings, while others choose to bring guns to their church in the belief that this will bring about peace for them and the congregation.

I see a truck with a license plate saying: I love guns. I have vegan friends who will not even eat the egg of a possible chick.

Open House At West Swanzey's Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Town of Swanzey will host an open house at the West Swanzey Wastewater Treatment Facility on Saturday, June 20th, from 9 a.m. to noon at 56 Denman Thompson Highway.

Town staff and Energy Commission members will be on hand to offer brief tours and answer questions about the facility's operations and a new solar array that helps offset costs for taxpayers. Visitors will also learn about changes under consideration for the town's wastewater systems.

Swanzey currently operates three distinct systems. Selectmen are currently considering the cost savings of consolidating all town wastewater to Keene, which would repurpose the solar array to run pumps in West Swanzey rather than the plant.

For more details, contact Joe DiRusso, Director of Public Works, at 603-352-7116.

And let us not speak about how this one word can be bandied about by politicians.

I thought I had seen it all, by which I mean the many ways that peace is understood by people, until what happened a few months ago to a place in Washington, DC once named The United States Institute for Peace. Now it's named Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace.

You see, my friend from college, Ginny, worked there. She was a human rights activist focusing on Latin America. She'd begun there sometime in the early 2000s, after many years at the Washington Office on Latin America. USIP was then housed on a mid-level floor in an office building in downtown DC. Nothing fancy. Just a normal kind of office.

Then one day, Ginny tells me that the Navy has donated a piece of land for USIP at a prime spot near the Esplanade. I recall telling her I thought it odd the Navy was doing this.

A few years later, I visit Ginny at the new USIP building. And I feel like I am in a scene from Star Wars as I wait for her in a vestibule of pure glass and marble rising several stories high. A military guard, behind plexiglass, will not let me pass through to go to her office. I pass the time reading shining plaques on the wall, thanking donors. I recognize many of the names as prominent right wing politicians. I begin to feel nauseated.

Ginny finally comes out to meet me, apologizing for the wait. She explains that the visitors now arrive in limos

through an underground tunnel, so no one can see who is going there. She says it is increasingly military people from many countries, mostly the Middle East.

Over lunch, she tells me that she's the only person at USIP dedicated to Latin America now.

I look at my dear friend who I've known for so long. She looks shriveled and dried out. "Why don't you quit?" I ask her.

She tells me that she is planning to, after the Peace Accords in Colombia are signed shortly. She has been collaborating on this for more than a decade.

It was a sad lunch. Ginny never had a chance to quit. She died not long after the Colombian Peace Accords were signed of an autoimmune disease she'd struggled with for years.

I do not know what Ginny would have said or done if she was still alive today. She was much feistier and more courageous than I am.

All I am doing, which isn't much, is writing this article for you to read. I'm hoping that in some small way it will contribute, eventually, to a kind of healing around what real peace really is. Not just at an individual level. At the national level as well. Because, like people, sometimes nations can get infected with maladies like hatred and ill will and avarice, and need a healing.

Skye Stephenson enjoys writing and researching about sacred stones and place. She lives in Keene. <https://skiestephenson.com/>

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THE GILSUM ROCK SWAP DINNER
SATURDAY • JUNE 27TH
 This annual one-of-a-kind dinner will be at the Gilsun Church (13 Main Street) and will have tickets for two seatings.

The all-you-can-eat, family style meal includes ham, potato salad, homemade baked beans, coleslaw, bread, lemonade, and coffee. All this is capped off with our renowned belly-filling, choice-abundant pie finale! Seating times are 5pm or 6:15pm, with a limited number of spaces available.

Tickets are \$20 for adults. Children (ages 8 and under) are just \$7. Tickets can be purchased on the Rock Swap field on Saturday the 27th from 8am – 3pm, or at the Gilsun Church. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

For additional information or to secure tickets ahead, call Barb at 603-352-0455 and leave a message no later than the 25th.

ENTERTAINMENT

and DINING

— Learn about —
Cheshire Village @ Home @ Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, June 25th - 1:15pm
Keene Senior Center
 312 Marlboro Street
 CALL 603-903-9680

Wednesday, Jun. 17

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Community Sing 7-8pm. Free. Brick Church, Harrisville. Led by folksingers Steve Schuch, David Blair and friends.
Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: Opening Night 7:30pm. Peterborough Players Theatre, 55 Hadley Rd., Peterborough. A Sherlock Holmes Mystery. Performances through June 28th. 603-924-7585. www.peterboroughplayers.org.
The Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat (CMR) Composers Forum II 7:30pm. Dublin School, Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall, 18 Lehmann Way, Dublin. A concert featuring newly composed/improvised works by Creative Musicians Retreat participants and discussions moderated by composer-in-residence Nicole Mitchell and members of the CMR faculty. 603-563-8212.

FAMILY FUN

Swamp Bats vs. Sanford Mainers 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar. Kids Demar Night. Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Doug the Devil Stick Man. www.swampbats.com.
Musical Storytime with Kim Wallach 10:30-11:15am. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Song, movement, stories and fingerplays. For preschool and early elementary age children. Registration requested. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keeneh.gov.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Drinking Liberally 7:30pm. Margarita's, Main Street, Keene. Meet-up for left of center political discussion and other current events. 603-352-1707. keene@drinkingliberally.org. www.livingliberally.org/chapter/nh/keene.

MISCELLANEOUS

Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays By Appointment HCS Charlestown, 33 Arborway. Confidential, free discussion of services. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.
Walk-in Wednesdays 1-3pm. Family Resource Center at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street, Keene. Confidential, free dis-

ussion of services. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.
Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays 1-3pm. HCS Peterborough, 454 Old Street Road Medical Arts Building, Suite 208. Confidential, free discussion of services. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.
Juneteenth 7pm. Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock. Learn about the history of Juneteenth. Talking about books centering on Black history. hancocklibrary@comcast.net.

Thursday, Jun. 18

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat (CMR) Performers Night 7:30pm. Dublin School, Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall, 18 Lehmann Way, Dublin. Free concert of diverse chamber music. 603-563-8212.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

"Exiting Your Business: Strategies for Owners, Families, and Successors" 5:30pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Practical steps for those looking to sell, transfer, or gradually phase out of their businesses. 603-924-8040. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Monadnock Club: A Political Discussion Group 2-3pm. Peterborough Town Library, Kelly Room, 2 Concord St. Share views, listen to others, and consider perspectives. Leader will share an agenda. bithlo178@gmail.com.
Butterfly Release 3-6pm. Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Rd., Rindge. Release butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.
Infinite Worlds Book Club 6-7:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. A non-traditional book club for adults focusing on speculative fiction. June's theme: Pirates. Katelyn McStravick: 603-352-0157. kmcstravick@keeneh.gov.
Book Talk: America is Wild! with Brad Timm 7pm. Harris Center, 83 Kings Hwy, Hancock. Presentation will inspire a deeper appreciation for wildlife and plants. Space is limited, registration required. 603-525-3394. www.harriscenter.org.

Friday, Jun. 19

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Juneteenth Community Celebration 5pm. Fuller Park, Keene Recreation Center. Free. Music, spoken word, and community celebration featuring performances by Jazzlyn Mota, Samirah Evans, and JohnLu & the Band. Bring chair or blanket.
Band Concert Series: Walt Sayer and Friends 6:30pm. Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Rd. Bring a lawn chair.
The Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat (CMR) Composers Forum III 7:30pm. Dublin School, Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall, 18 Lehmann Way, Dublin. Newly composed/improvised works. Walden School Office: 603-563-8212.

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. Vermont Mountaineers 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar. Juneteenth. Welcome Camp Takodah. Milla's Magic Treasures. www.swampbats.com.
Homeschool Library Day 11am. Conant Public Library,

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FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH
VS. VERMONT MOUNTAINEERS
 Juneteenth
 Welcome Camp Takodah!
 Milla's Magic Treasures

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD
VS. NEWPORT GULLS
All Faith Night
 NNDI's Super Seniors Dance Troupe, Milla's Magic Treasures, Face Painting, Arts + Crafts, All About Maple Fried Dough

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH
VS. MARTHAS VINEYARD SHARKS
Rally Towel Giveaway Night
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Saturday, June 20th, 4 p.m.
Doors open at 3:30 p.m.
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Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church
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 25 Main St., Peterborough

Claudio Monteverdi's 'Vespers'
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Saturday, June 27th 7:00PM
 St. Bernard Church
 185 Main Street, Keene
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60th Annual Rock Swap

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 SNACK BAR!

June 27th & 28th

More than 65 dealers and swappers with gems, jewelry and minerals available for sale or trade in scenic southwestern NH. All proceeds go to youth recreation and community programs.
 Minerals and crystals from all over the world!
 Ham & Bean Supper with home made pies on Saturday at 5:00 & 6:00pm
 Chicken Barbecue on Sunday, Noon to 2 pm
 Special presentation on the History of Mining in Gilsun by Alan Rumrill
 Admission is free, although donations are graciously accepted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
 from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

- June 13, 2026
 Auden Richards, daughter of Brodie & Dan Richards, Keene, 1
- June 20, 2026
 Dax Tebaldi, son of Briana & Donny Tebaldi, Keene, 9
- June 21, 2026
 Calla Rose Kingsbury, daughter of Justin Kingsbury & Amanda Marie, Walpole, 7
 Maizy Rose Whalen, daughter of Zachary & Adrienne Whalen, Northfield NH, 6

HANNAFORD'S BIRTHDAY CAKE
 This Week's Winners

Calla Rose Kingsbury, Walpole, 7
 Dax Tebaldi, Keene, 9

Submit your Birthday Kids' entry online at:
ShopperNews.com/Community

111 Main St., Winchester. Craft, books, and hang with other homeschool families. 603-239-4331. www.conantlibrary.org/.

MISCELLANEOUS

Teen & Adult Craft Night: Jewelry Making 6pm. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. Make wire wrapped jewelry with artist Sandra Haynes. Earrings, a bracelet, or a necklace. Limited to 10 people. Reservation recommended. Ages 12+. 603-239-4331.

Butterfly Release 10am-1pm. Butterfly Park, 320 Marlboro St., Keene. Release a butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.

Sat., Jun. 20

ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER

MUSIC 4UU: Clef Club Syncopators 4pm. Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Main St. Popular music from the early 20th century. Tin Pan Alley, early Broadway, dance craze, and music for silent movies. Doors open at 3:30. Free, donations requested.

Coffee House & Open Mic 6-9pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St. Feature: Hot Skillet Club, blend of jazz and western string music. 603-563-8080. info@dublin-communitycenter.org. www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar.

Summer Solstice Concert 7:30pm. Nelson Town Hall. The Solstice Sisters. \$15/children under 16 free with adult. www.monadnockfolk.org.

DINING PLEASURES

Breakfast 8-11am. The Chapel by the Lake, Old Rte. 9 (near int. with Murdough Hill Rd.), Munsonville. Pancakes (plain/blueberry), homemade waffles, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, fresh fruit, juice, and coffee. Adults \$8, under 10 \$4 and under 2 are free.

A Summer English Tea Community Event 10am. Beth-El Bible Church, 13 Village Rd., Surry. Second seating at 1pm. Seatings include a full-service three course English tea experience. By donation. Reservations at eventsbethelsurry@gmail.com.

FAIRS & SALES

Keene Farmers' Market 9am-1pm. Gilbo Avenue. Plants & cut flowers, produce, breads & pastries, jewelry, maple syrup, braided rugs, bird feeders & houses, alpaca fiber products, soaps, herbs & herbal body care, and more. www.keenefarmersmarket.com/.

FAMILY FUN

Summer Reading Kick-off Festival 10:30am-12:30pm. Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St. Giant bubbles, face painting, planting seeds to take home, Erin Sweeney's Art Table, a visit to a Fairy Garden, and more.

MISCELLANEOUS

Anam Dance: Celebrating the Summer Solstice 7-8pm. Harrisville Village Community Center. A free-form movement practice. Guided by world and modern music.

Winchester Ag Day 9am-2pm. Winchester Town Park. Vendors from various farms, agricultural organizations, and 4-H clubs. 603-313-6556.

Open House 9am-12pm. West Swanzey's Wastewater Treatment Facility, 56 Denman Thompson Hwy. See how the new solar array helps to keep costs down for taxpayers, and learn how the facility functions and what changes are in store. Joe DiRusso: 603-352-7116.

Butterfly Release 10am-1pm. Butterfly Park, 320 Marlboro St., Keene. Release a butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one. 603-352-2253. www.HCSservices.org.

Customer Appreciation Day 10am-3pm. Horse & Buggy Feeds, Rt. 12, Winchendon. Wood-fired pizza truck, ice cream, petting farm. Winchendon location only.

Outdoor Story Time 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. "The Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister, followed by an activity. Weather permitting, it will be outside with bubbles. Recommended for ages 3-8, but all ages welcome. 603-239-4331. www.conantlibrary.org.

Kingsbury Makerspace Open House 11am-1pm. Kingsbury Makerspace, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Staff on hand doing demos and answering questions. This event is free and intended for adults and youth ages 13+ Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keeneh.gov.

RELIGIOUS

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage 12-4pm. St. Bernard Church, 185 Main St., Keene. Festivities (which include a procession to town square) end at 4pm with mass.

Sunday, Jun. 21

MISCELLANEOUS

Rindge Conservation Commission: Guided Pollinator Walk 1:30pm. Contoocook Marsh Conservation Complex parking lot, Country Rd., Rindge. Free, family-friendly hike. Learn about pollinators and how to protect them. rindgeconcom@rindge.nh.gov.

Mon., Jun. 22

MISCELLANEOUS

Summer Reading: Plant a Seed, Read! Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Runs through July 31st. Register for by visiting the library. 603-924-8040. www.PeterboroughTownLibrary.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-1:30pm. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 130 Summit Rd., Keene. Call or visit to schedule appointment at 800-733-2767. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Tues., Jun. 23

ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER

Colonial Theatre Curatorial Voice Keith Marks and Owen Murphy 6-7pm. Keene Public Library, Ruth Huntress Auditorium, 60 Winter St., Keene. The value of live arts and why a thriving cultural scene matters. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keeneh.gov.

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. Newport Gulls 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar. All Faith Night. NHDi's Super Seniors Dance Troupe, Milla's Magic Treasures, Face Painting, Arts + Crafts, Mad About Maple Fried Dough. www.swampbats.com.

Wed., Jun. 24

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. Martha's Vineyard Sharks 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar. Rally Towel Giveaway Night. Doug the Devil Stick Man, Mad About Maple Fried Dough. www.swampbats.com.

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Sat., June 27th • 11 am - 3 pm • \$3 pp
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11th Annual Nelson Congregational Church Artisan Fair

SAT., JUNE 27TH
9am - 3pm
RAIN OR SHINE



On the Nelson Common
Local artisans, food & crafters in beautiful Nelson village. Lunch at the NCC booth!

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Adapted and Directed by Hunter Foster and Eric Price.
Directed by Lynda Beck.
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To Purchase Tickets: SCAN THE QR CODE. Marlborough Community House, 160 Main St., Rm. 101, Marlborough, NH. PHONE: 603-876-4068.
\$18 General Admission
\$15 Seniors / Students
branchrivertheatre.org

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY!
Saturday, June 20th, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Winchendon store only Rescheduled from May 30th

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June 17-28

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Recipes That Say, "Thanks Dad!"

Father's Day, always the third Sunday in June, is a time to thank fathers and other male role models for their love, guidance, and support. Whether it's a simple meal or a big celebration, this day is all about showing appreciation for the importance fathers play in our lives. This Sunday, also the first day of Summer, let dad know how special he is by preparing his favorite meal or some recipes from this week's column, including breakfast to dinner suggestions and simple to showy ideas.

Overnight Caramel Strata

An easy breakfast dish might be dad's favorite meal of the day, especially if he has a sweet tooth. This make-ahead dish is good served with baked ham or sausage patties, assorted fresh fruit and lots of hot coffee.

- Ingredients:**
 2/3 cup dark brown sugar
 1 stick butter
 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
 12 slices sandwich bread, crusts trimmed
 1 1/2 cups milk
 6 eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, butter, and corn syrup in heavy small saucepan. Stir over medium-low heat until butter melts and sugar dissolves; bring to boil. Pour into 13x9x2-inch glass baking dish; tilt dish to coat bottom evenly. Let syrup cool, then arrange six bread slices in single layer atop caramel, trimming to fit if necessary. Cover with remaining bread slices, trimming as needed. Whisk milk, eggs and vanilla in bowl to blend; pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake strata uncovered in preheated 350-degree oven until bread is puffed and light golden brown, about 40 minutes. Let stand five minutes and cut into six to eight serving portions.

Hot Dog Chili

Make up a batch of this topping and serve it over grilled hot dogs. Serve along with some coleslaw and potato salad for an easy meal that's bound to please any dad.

- Ingredients:**
 1/2 lb. ground beef
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
 1 8-oz. can kidney beans, rinsed and drained well
 2 teaspoons chili powder (or to taste)
 Garnishes: shredded cheese, chopped onion, pickle relish
 6 hot dogs for grilling and 6 hot dog rolls for serving
- In large skillet, cook beef, onion, and green pepper until meat is browned. Drain off any fat. Stir in tomato sauce, beans and chili powder. Bring to boiling; reduce heat and simmer five to eight minutes. Serve over hot dogs in buns with shredded cheese, chopped onion and pickle relish.

Brown Sugar Grilled Steak

A quick rub flavors this favorite grilling steak with little or no fuss. Dad is sure to enjoy this steak served over grilled onions; a potato salad would pair well.

- Ingredients:**
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 salt and freshly ground pepper
 1 pound skirt steak (or similar cut), cut into 4 portions
 1 large red onion, cut into thick rounds
 olive oil
 1 lime, cut into wedges, for serving

Preheat a grill to high heat. Mix the brown sugar, two teaspoons salt, and one tablespoon pepper together in a small bowl. Rub into the steaks and set aside for 15 to 20 minutes. Drizzle the onion with olive oil and season with some salt. Grill onion slices on each side until soft and darkly charred, about eight minutes; set aside. Grill the steaks on high heat until crisp, about two and a half minutes per side. Set aside to rest for five minutes, and then slice the steaks across the grain. Serve steak atop the grilled onions; pass lime wedges to squeeze over all.

Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



Grilled Salmon/ Bacon And Corn Relish

Salmon is topped with a colorful bacon and corn relish. Did I mention there will be bacon? Dad could love this! If desired, toss one half cup of fresh blueberries into the relish just before serving for added color and flavor.

- Ingredients:**
 8 to 10 strips bacon, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch pieces
 4 ears corn
 1/2 cup chopped green onions (white and light green parts), green tops chopped and reserved
 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
 2 tablespoon rice wine vinegar, or more to taste
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 2 pinches cayenne pepper, or to taste, divided
 salt and ground black pepper to taste
 4 (6 ounce) center-cut boneless salmon fillets
 1 teaspoon vegetable oil

Cook bacon in a skillet over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until browned and crisp, eight to 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cut kernels from cobs into a large bowl using a sharp knife held at a 45-degree angle. Scrape cobs with the back of the knife into the bowl to release the juices. Add green onions (white and light green parts) and red bell pepper to bacon; cook and stir until vegetables just become tender, about two minutes. Stir in corn; cook until warmed through. Season with rice wine vinegar, olive oil, a few chopped dark green onion tops, one pinch cayenne pepper, salt, and black pepper. Remove from heat. Coat both sides salmon fillets with vegetable oil; season with remaining one pinch cayenne pepper, salt, and black pepper. Cook on the preheated grill until good grill marks appear, fillets flake easily with a fork, and salmon is still slightly pink in the center, about five minutes per side (cracks in salmon flesh as you cook the fillets allow you to see doneness in the middle. Makes four servings)

Fresh Strawberry Pie

Anyone who likes strawberries will appreciate this delicious pie, both for its simplicity and elegance.

- Ingredients:**
 2 pints fresh strawberries, washed and hulled
 3/4 cup sugar
 3 tablespoons cornstarch
 1 (9-inch) pie shell, baked (your own or store-bought crust)
 heavy cream, whipped for garnish

Crush one pint of the strawberries and place in saucepan. Add sugar and cornstarch; boil until thick and transparent, about five minutes; set aside. Line baked pie shell with the other pint of berries, left whole. Pour slightly cooled cooked berries over whole berries in the pie shell. Refrigerate to chill. Serve with whipped cream.

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Flowers, Flowers, Flowers

The Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, MA is a former trolley bridge transformed into a pedestrian walkway and garden, connecting Shelburne and Buckland across the Deerfield River. Maintained by volunteers, it features seasonal flowers and is a free attraction. I was just talking about visiting this lovely attraction the other day with my daughters, and we are planning a visit soon. I did some research and this is what I found.

The bridge was built for \$20,000 in 1908 by the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway, so freight could be picked up and dropped off. This concrete bridge was necessary because the nearby Iron Bridge had a 20-ton weight limit.

As automobile usage began to increase, freight began to be transported more by trucks, and the street railway (trolley) company went bankrupt in 1927.

In 1929 the bridge was covered in weeds and Antoinette Burnham came up with the idea of transforming it into a garden. It could not be demolished because it carried a water main between the two towns. The community agreed with her idea and the Shelburne Woman's Club sponsored the project. In 1929, 80 loads of loam and several loads of fertilizer were brought to the bridge. Several women's clubs raised \$1000 to make the change into what it is today.

In 1975, a study was conducted as there were concerns about the deterioration of the bridge structure. In 1981, funds were raised and a study was commissioned which determined that \$580,000 was needed for repairs. A variety of organizations raised the money, and repairs began in 1983. Every plant that was removed was cared for on private properties. This restoration replaced the eight-inch water line. The bridge contains two and a half feet of soil at the top of the arches and nine feet at the piers.

On August 28, 2011, rain runoff from Hurricane Irene flooded the Deerfield River and engulfed The Bridge of Flowers, which then needed to be repaired.

The gardens feature a wide variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees that change throughout the season, with volunteer gardeners ensuring continuous blooms. It has a 400-foot concrete arch bridge with a pathway, handrails, and lighting.

The scenic views of the Deerfield River and the surrounding towns add to the ambiance. It was closed for extensive structural repairs in late 2023 and had a "soft" reopening in July 2025.

There is another beautiful area of gardens located off the coast of Maine. Celia Thaxter's Garden on Appledore Island in Maine sits just where it was during Celia's lifetime, and the beautiful raised beds and flowers follow the plan laid out in her acclaimed book, *An Island Garden*. Some of Celia's original plants are still in the garden including snowdrops, day lilies, hollyhocks, and brilliant red poppies. A ferry departs for Appledore Island from the Judd Gregg Marine Research Center in New Castle.

Woods and Gardens

with Rose Kowaliw



Celia Thaxter planted her first garden at age five. She was a lonely child living on this island 10 miles out to sea, and the flowers were, in her words, "like dear friends to me, comforters, inspirers, powers to uplift and to cheer."

Her garden grew larger over the years, as did Celia's fame and influence. She became a renowned poet and, at her family's Appledore Island hotel, the host of literary luminaries. Famed impressionist Childe Hassam illustrated *An Island Garden*.

Her life was hard, an unhappy marriage was just one of her challenges, and she often sought solace in her garden. You can visit where Celia lived on Appledore and imagine all that happened there, so long ago. The tours are expensive and arduous for those not physically fit. As a result, few people have experienced the island and the gardens.

Peter Randall, a seacoast-based photographer/filmmaker/retired publisher who has had a 40-year fascination with photographing the Isles of Shoals and Celia's garden, in particular, decided to make the first-ever film about it. It is called *Celia Thaxter's Island Garden*. In 1914, Celia's cottage and the hotel burned to the ground and was resurrected for today's guests to enjoy.

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